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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/645,170	08/21/2003	Mark DeSorcy	DESMPA103	7282

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EXAMINER

ROWAN, KURT C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3643

DATE MAILED: 01/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/645,170	Applicant(s) DESORCY, MARK	
	Examiner Kurt Rowan	Art Unit 3643	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
         1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
         2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.  
         3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
     \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
     a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

### Attachment(s)

- |                                                                                              |                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.  |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

• **DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grosse (5,551,184) in view of Selig (1,556,966).

The patents to Grosse and Selig show fishing rod butt pads for covering the gimbaled butt end of a fishing rod. Grosse shows a base portion 25 and a neck portion 21 extending from the neck portion and having an open end 35. Grosse shows an inner wall surface that tapers from a greater diameter at the open end that at the bottom as shown in Fig. 10. Grosse shows the inner wall surface including at least two longitudinally extending ribs at 31 in Fig. 6 within the base portion noting column 4, lines 39-43 for frictional engagement with the butt end of a fishing rod. Grosse shows the base portion being the same size as the open end of the neck portion. Grosse shows the one-piece body as being integrally formed from a single composition material as disclosed in column 4, lines 3-9. The patent to Selig shows a fishing rod protective tip having a body-engaging surface 1d on the base portion being larger than the open end of the neck portion 1a as shown in Figs. 1-2. Selig shows the butt pad being made from a one-piece body integrally formed from a single composition material. In reference to

claims 1 and 8, it would have been obvious to provide Grosse with an enlarged body engaging surface of the base portion as shown by Selig to provide greater frictional forces between the base surface and a user, which would result in the rod being more stable against the user. In reference to claims 2 and 9, Grosse in view of Selig does not disclose that the transverse cross-sectional dimension is greater than two times the diameter of the hollow receptacle at the open end, but it would have been obvious to size the base section twice as large as the neck portion to increase the friction between the base portion and a user noting that changes in size are obvious. See *In re Rose*, 105 USPQ 137. In reference to claims 3 and 10, Selig shows the outer periphery of the base portion is larger than an outer periphery of the neck portion. In reference to claims 4, 6, 7, 11, 13, 14, Selig shows the body is formed from a firm yet resilient rubber on page 1, line 80. In reference to claims 5 and 12, Grosse shows an air passage 31 in Figs. 2-8 formed there through and in airflow communication with the hollow receptacle to promote forced removal of the butt end of a fishing rod from frictional engagement within the hollow receptacle.

### ***Conclusion***

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The patents to Howard, Grozik, Garbalino, Bell, and Sleight show the state of the art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kurt Rowan whose telephone number is 703 308-2321. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 6:30-5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Poon can be reached on 703 308-2574. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308-1113.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kurt Rowan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kurt Rowan  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3643

KR